

1       A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of General  
2 Russell Elliott Dougherty.

3       WHEREAS, General Dougherty was born in Glasgow, Kentucky, on November 15,  
4 1920, and at the age of twelve decided that he wanted to become a lawyer; and

5       WHEREAS, playing trumpet in the Glasgow High School band led to his first  
6 military experience, as the 123rd Cavalry of the Kentucky National Guard was in need of  
7 a bugler in 1935, and a young Russell Dougherty fit the bill, playing his bugle and taking  
8 care of his captain's horse; and

9       WHEREAS, General Dougherty stayed with the 123rd Cavalry throughout high  
10 school and college and once said the one thing that gave him the greatest satisfaction was  
11 knowing that he paid his way through school as a trumpet player and never cost his  
12 parents a penny; and

13       WHEREAS, General Dougherty graduated from Western Kentucky University in  
14 1941, took a job with the Federal Bureau of Investigation with the intent of also studying  
15 law; and

16       WHEREAS, the advent of World War II changed his plans, and General Dougherty  
17 entered active military service as an aviation cadet, receiving his commission and pilot  
18 wings in March 1943; and

19       WHEREAS, during World War II, General Dougherty served as an instructor pilot  
20 in the Air Training Command and later served in the 3d Air Force as a B-17 "Flying  
21 Fortress" pilot and on a B-29 combat crew. His post-World War II assignments  
22 encompassed duties in operational, maintenance, administrative, political/military, and  
23 command duties in the Air Force, joint, and international assignments; and

24       WHEREAS, in 1947 General Dougherty served as a unit instructor with the Air  
25 Force Reserve at Standiford Field while he attended the University of Louisville and  
26 earned his juris doctor degree. In 1948 he was transferred to the Far East Air Forces and  
27 flew with the 19th Bombardment Wing while also serving as staff judge advocate for the

1 wing, then as assistant staff judge advocate for the 20th Air Force, and then as assistant  
2 staff judge advocate for the Far East Air Forces Headquarters in Japan; and

3 WHEREAS, General Dougherty returned to the United States in 1951 and was  
4 assigned to the Air Material Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton,  
5 Ohio, as chief of the Appeals and Litigation Division, and as the assistant United States  
6 Air Force trial attorney for litigation arising out of Air Force procurement and contractual  
7 activities; and

8 WHEREAS, in December 1952, General Dougherty elected to leave the Judge  
9 Advocate General's Department for assignment to the Strategic Air Command (SAC) and  
10 attended both B-29 refresher and KC-97 transition training; and

11 WHEREAS, the next year General Dougherty began successive assignment in SAC  
12 as operations officer for the 303d Air Refueling Squadron, commander of the 303d  
13 Armament and Electronics Squadron, deputy chief of operations, 303d Bombardment  
14 Wing, and commander, 358th Bombardment Squadron, all at Davis-Monthan Air Force  
15 Base in Arizona; and

16 WHEREAS, General Dougherty was then assigned to Headquarters 15th Air Force,  
17 SAC, as chief of the Operations Division, where, in 1957 he planned the B-52 round-the-  
18 world flight known as Operation Power Elite, and later became the deputy director of  
19 operations, Headquarters 15th Air Force; and

20 WHEREAS, after graduating from the National War College in 1960, General  
21 Dougherty's assigned duty was at Headquarters United States Air Force in the Office of  
22 the Deputy Director for War Plans. The next year he was appointed deputy assistant  
23 director of plans for joint matters, and in February 1963 he was made the assistant  
24 director for plans for joint and National Security Matters; and

25 WHEREAS, General Dougherty had four assignments in joint and international  
26 duties, and as deputy director for plans and operations (J-3), Headquarters United States  
27 European Command, he was the United States' planner for the successful United

1 States/Belgian rescue operation at Stanleyville in the Congo; and

2 WHEREAS, General Dougherty served stateside as director, European Region,  
3 Office of the Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs), before returning to  
4 Europe and serving as director for Plans and Policy (J-5) at Headquarters United States  
5 European Command in Stuttgart, Germany; and

6 WHEREAS, in the fall of 1969, General Dougherty was again assigned to  
7 Headquarters United States Air Force where he served as the assistant deputy chief of  
8 staff, plans and operations, and then became deputy chief of staff, plans and operations  
9 for the United States Air Force; and

10 WHEREAS, General Dougherty was then assigned as commander, 2d Air Force,  
11 SAC, with headquarters at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, commanding the  
12 United States Air Force's largest numbered Air Force, which consisted of the majority of  
13 SAC's B-52 bombers and KC-135 tankers; and

14 WHEREAS, General Dougherty was promoted to his four-star grade on May 1,  
15 1972, and was assigned as chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe,  
16 headquarters of NATO's Allied Command Europe; and

17 WHEREAS, on August 1, 1974, General Dougherty became the eighth commander  
18 of the Strategic Air Command, where he served until his retirement in 1977; and

19 WHEREAS, in the role as commander of SAC, General Dougherty was in charge of  
20 the nation's major nuclear deterrent force with bombers, tankers, reconnaissance aircraft,  
21 and intercontinental ballistic missiles; and

22 WHEREAS, General Dougherty earned a reputation among his peers as one of the  
23 most open, approachable leaders in the command's history, while also being highly  
24 regarded as one of the Air Force's best thinkers and planners. He was so well regarded at  
25 SAC and throughout the military that the Strategic Planning Center at Offutt Air Force  
26 Base was renamed the Dougherty Conference Center in his honor; and

27 WHEREAS, General Dougherty's military decorations and awards included the

1 Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Air Force Distinguished Service Medal with two  
2 oak leaf clusters, Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, Bronze Star Medal, and the  
3 Joint Service Commendation Medal for his tenure as the United States Air Force's  
4 operations deputy on the Joint Staff; and

5 WHEREAS, General Russell Elliott Dougherty traversed these earthly bounds on  
6 September 7, 2007, at the age of 87, and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery; and

7 WHEREAS, General Russell Elliott Dougherty was truly one of the fathers of  
8 today's Air Force, whose legacy and contributions to the Air Force will be felt for many  
9 years to come;

10 NOW, THEREFORE,

11 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*  
12 *Kentucky:*

13 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate acknowledge the exemplary service of  
14 General Russell Elliott Dougherty, a father of today's Air Force.

15 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving  
16 memory of General Russell Elliott Dougherty.

17 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
18 Resolution to Senator David Givens for delivery.